

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ARCE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

REFERENCE: CAIRO 1960

1. ARCE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO GET TO SEE FON MIN FAHMY HERE. JOHN WILSON, PRESIDENT ARCE, AND ARCE DIRECTORS MORROE BERGER AND BAILY WINDER HAVE MADE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF ARCE, URGING EMBASSY'S ACTIVE INTERVENTION WITH GOE TO SORT OUT THEIR PROBLEM. WE MADE NO PROMISES, BUT AGREED TO PASS ALONG FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS BY ARCE:

A. ARCE IS DISTURBED NOT SO MUCH BY ANY LEGITIMATE SECURITY NEEDS THAT GOE MAY HAVE, AND WHICH ARCE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MEET, BUT BY DILATORY MANNER WITH WHICH GOE HAS APPROACHED ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH ARCE, LEAVING LATTER WITH IMPRESSION CERTAIN QUARTERS IN GOE ARE DETERMINED TO SABOTAGE ANY FURTHER ARCE WORK IN SOCIAL FIELD. ARCE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ESTIMATE WHETHER THIS DELAY REFLECTS GENUINE DIFFICULTY IN HANDLING GOE SECURITY CONCERNS OR, AS ARCE DIRECTORS HERE TEND TO BELIEVE, IS SOME KIND OF RUNAROUND.

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B. IF THERE APPEARS TO BE DIFFICULTIES WITH EARLY CONCLU-

SION OF AGREEMENT, ARCE WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP IN PERSUADING

GOE NOT TO ALLOW THIS TO DELAY APPROVAL OF FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS FOR FY 74-75. ARCE POINTS OUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THAT GOE WOULD ADMIT FELLOWS DURING PERIOD WHEN THERE WERE NO FORMAL RELATIONS BUT NOW DISAPPROVE PROGRAM AFTER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS RESTORED.

C. FELLOWS ARE NOW AWAITING FINAL WORD FROM ARCE ON APPROVAL OF STUDY PROJECTS IN EGYPT. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THEY MUST BE INFORMED VERY SOON AS THEY WILL OBVIOUSLY NEED TO MAKE OTHER PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR IF GOE APPROVAL IS NOT FORTHCOMING. IF FY 74-75 FELLOWS CAN BE APPROVED, ARCE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY TO COME TO MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ARCE AGREEMENT.

D. FAILURE TO APPROVE FY 74-75 FELLOWS WOULD BE SERIOUS BLOW TO ARCE BECAUSE UNIVERSITIES AND DEPARTMENT (CU) WHICH SUPPLY DOLLAR FUNDS ARE NOT LIKELY TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZATION WHOSE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT PROGRAM OF STUDIES IS FRAUGHT WITH UNCERTAINTIES. MOST CONSORTIUM MEMBERS ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN ISLAMIC STUDIES, COMPARED TO A FEW INSTITUTIONS INTERESTED LARGELY IN ARCHEOLOGY.

2. WE ASSUME YOU WILL WISH TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH DORMAN. WE LEAVE TO YOUR JUDGEMENT WHETHER IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO RAISE WITH BULBUL OR WAIT FOR FAHMY'S RETURN. DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR INTRODUCING WITH GOE, IN MANNER YOU DETERMINE MOST APPROPRIATE, TO HELP RESOLVE ARCE PROBLEM. KISSINGER

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